Carolina Compass FAQs

Who Are Your Instructors?

"This was a wonderful trip! The instructors were very educational and fun... Trip has definitely inspired me. I would recommend to others."

Our instructors are fellow undergraduates. They work with professional staff, are certified in first aid, and have the training to give you the best possible experience. On rare occasions, our professional staff will step into the field if there's a need for it.

Instructors will facilitate your group's development into a self-sufficient, high-functioning crew. Instructors are not "guides" and will give you the freedom to learn by experience. Many of our instructors are themselves former Carolina Compass participants!

What Is Carolina Adventures?

Carolina Adventures is part of the larger UNC Campus Recreation network and one of the few university programs in the United States accredited by the Association of Experiential Education.

Carolina Adventures is deeply rooted in the traditions of experiential education and the adventure process where we take people who have never met each other and place them in challenging situations which inspire them to become the best version of themselves.

Trips are structured to require participants as a group to take initiative, make decisions, and be accountable for the results. Through each person's

commitment to a positive group culture, students gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the way they relate to others.

Do I need previous experience?

No previous experience is required to attend these trips. Our goal is to meet you where you're at and make sure that you're well equipped for the adventure at hand. All equipment, transportation, food and supplies are provided. You just bring your personal clothing.

"This trip was fulfilling and fun...we learned a lot from this trip as most of us don't have such experience before." (Exchange student on a Carolina Adventures trip)

What happens if there's an emergency?

Although we encourage participants to leave their phones behind for the purpose of being fully present in the experience, our instructors will have a communication device. If there's a true emergency, at least one of our staff present on the trip is certified as a Wilderness First Responder (the industry standard for expeditions across the world). Should additional help or an evacuation be necessary, one of our professional staff will be on call to help if necessary. If there is a need for an evacuation or a doctor's visit, our professional staff will contact the parents and get the two of you in touch as soon as possible. Our goal is to keep everyone safe physically and emotionally so that they can complete their trip.

Tell me more about your scholarship.

The family of one of our former staff, has generously supported our First Year / Transfer programs through the Susan P. Cole Foundation. This scholarship,

if awarded will cover up to ½ of the cost of our Carolina Compass trips. We are eagerly seeking candidates for this program and would love to provide the financial support so that cost is not an issue. Email ShaneA@email.unc.edu for more information.